The National Measures Landscape:
Excerpts from the Buying Value Analysis of 48 State and Regional Measure Sets

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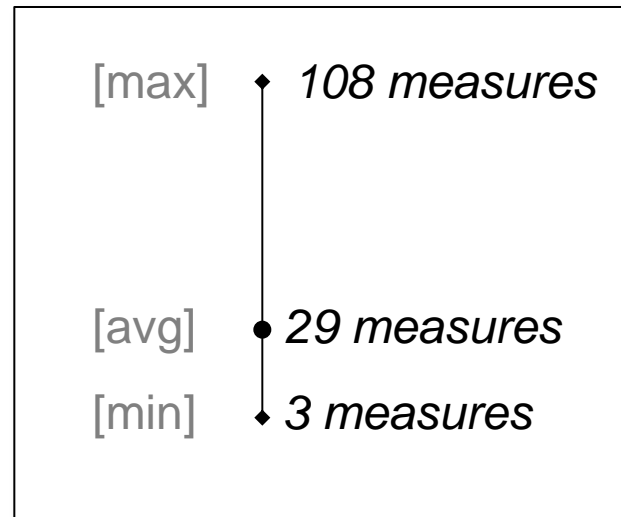
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About the Buying Value Study

- Bailit Health Purchasing was commissioned by the Buying Value initiative to paint a picture of the measures landscape across states and regions to inform development of the emerging Buying Value measure set.

- **Process:** Identify and collect 48 measure sets used by 25 states and several regional collaboratives for a range of purposes *and* conduct a multi-pronged analysis.

- **Methodology:** We used a convenience sample of measure sets from states, by requesting assistance from our contacts in states and regional collaboratives
  - **Note:** We did not survey every state, nor capture all of the sets used by the studied states.
  - We did not include any hospital measures sets in our analysis.

Finding #1: Many state/regional performance measures for providers are in use today
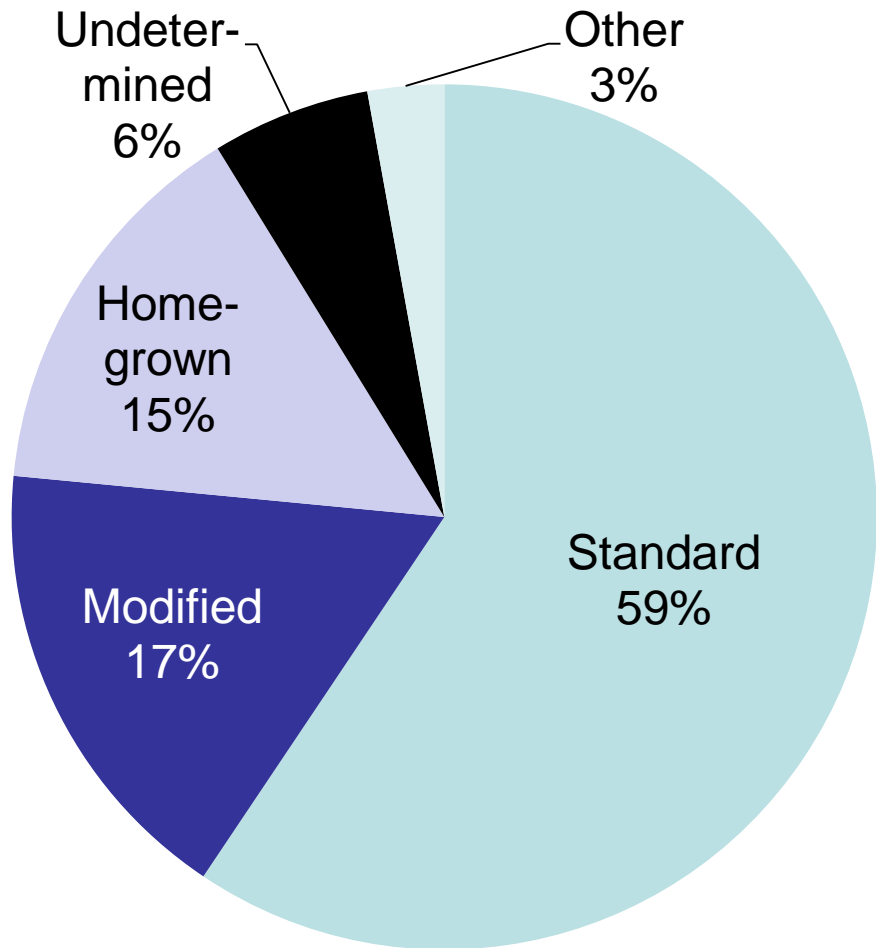
- In total, we identified **1367** measures across the 48 measure sets
  - This is counting the measures as NQF counts them, or if the measure was not NQF-endorsed, as the program counts them

- We identified **509** distinct measures
  - If a measure showed up in multiple measure sets, we only counted it once
  - If a program used a measure multiple times (i.e., variations on a theme) we also only counted it once

- We excluded 53 additional hospital measures from the analysis.

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Finding #2: Measure sets ranged significantly in size

[max] ◆ *108 measures*

[avg] ● *29 measures*

[min] ◆ *3 measures*

Note: This is counting the measures as NQF counts them (or if the measure was not NQF-endorsed, as the program counted them).

Finding #3: Programs showed a preference for "standard" measures

Measures by measure type
n = 1367

Defining Terms

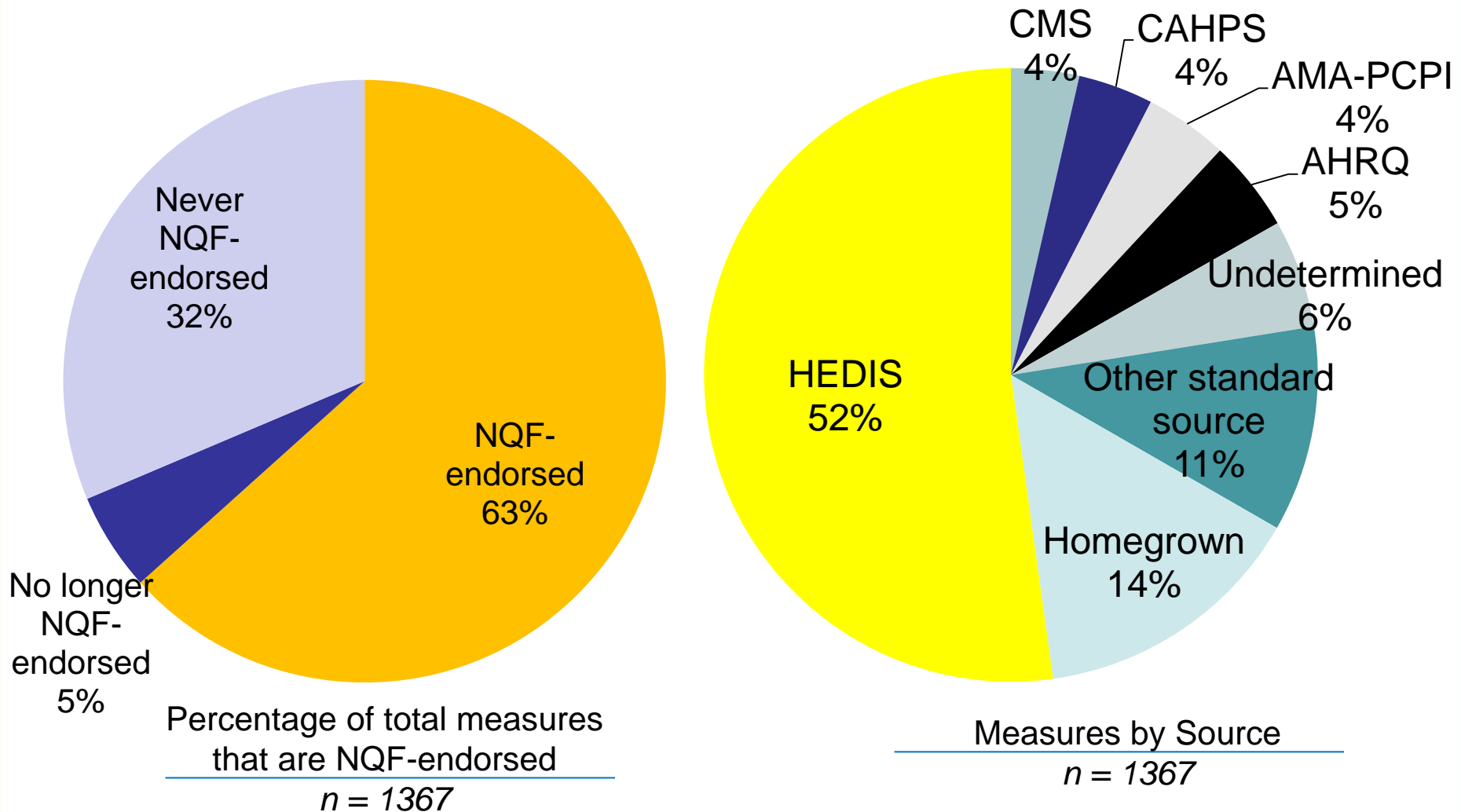**Standard:** measures from a known source (e.g., NCQA, AHRQ)

Modified: standard measures with a change to the traditional specifications

Homegrown: measures that were indicated on the source document as having been created by the developer of the measure set
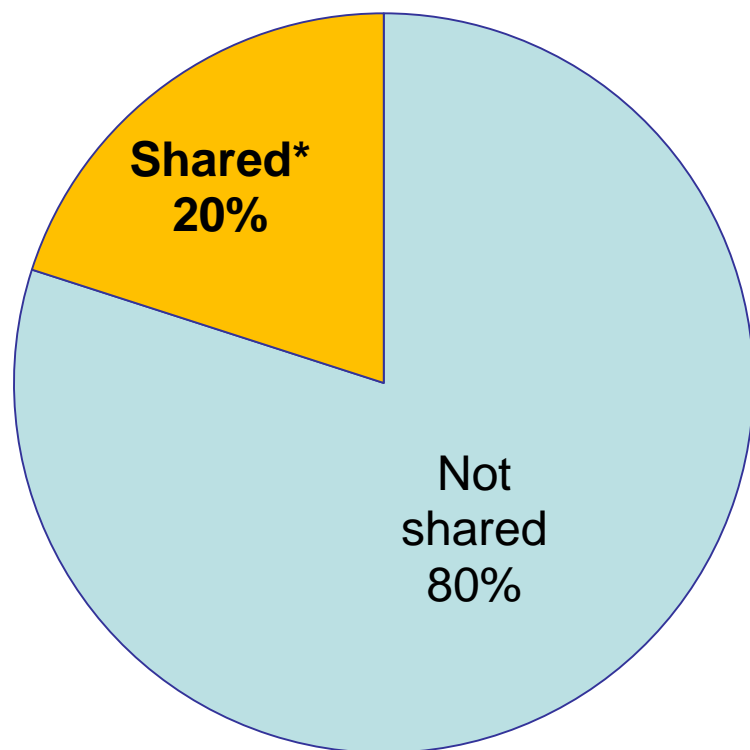
Undetermined: measures that were not indicated as "homegrown", but for which the source could not be identified

Other: a measure bundle or composite

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Most measures used are standard NQF-endorsed measures and/or from HEDIS

Never NQF-endorsed 32%

NQF-endorsed 63%

No longer NQF-endorsed 5%

Percentage of total measures that are NQF-endorsed
n = 1367

CMS 4% CAHPS 4% AMA-PCPI 4% AHRQ 5%

Undetermined 6%

HEDIS 52%

Other standard source 11%

Homegrown 14%

Measures by Source
n = 1367

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Note: the standard measures described here include those standard measures that have been modified.

Finding #4: Little alignment exists across the measure sets

Shared*
20%

Not
shared
80%

Number of distinct measures shared by
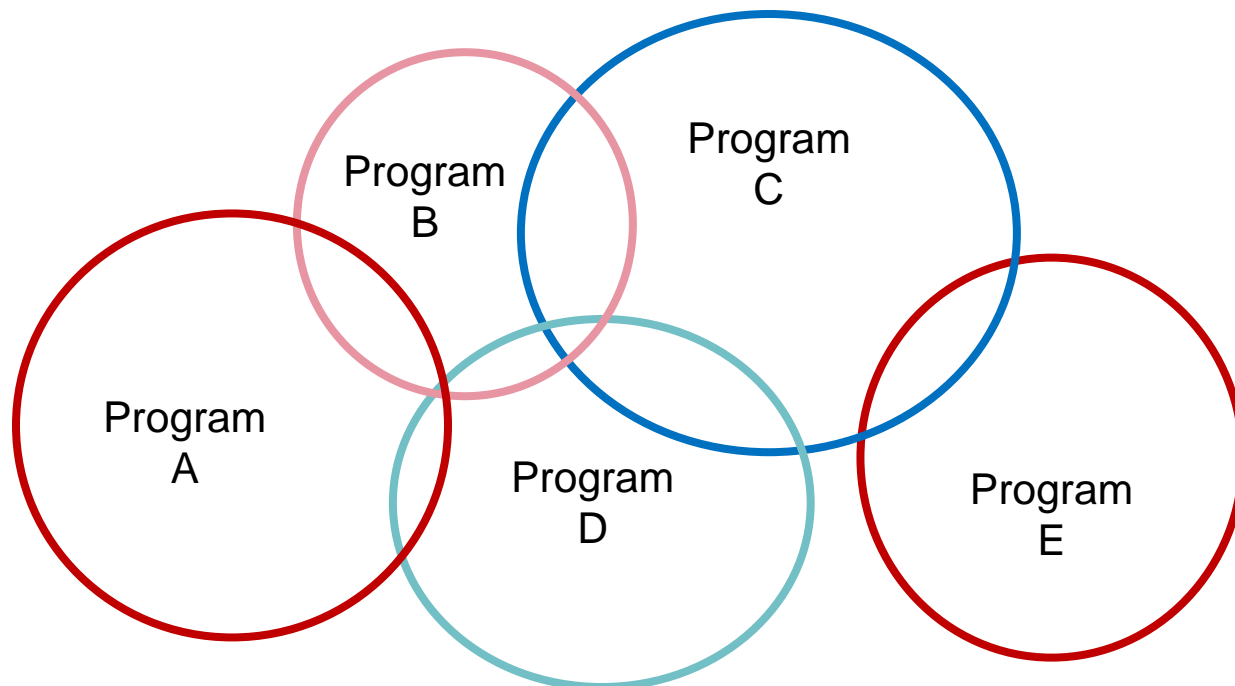multiple measure sets

n = 509

- Programs have very few measures in common or "sharing" across the measure sets

- Of the 1367 measures, 509 were "distinct" measures

- Only 20% of these distinct measures were used by more than one program

* By "shared," we mean that the programs have measures in common with one another, and not that programs are working together.

Regardless of how we cut the data, the programs were not aligned

- We conducted multiple analyses and found non-alignment persisted across:
  - Program types
  - Program purposes
  - Domains, and
  - A review of sets within CA and MA

- The only program type that showed alignment was the Medicaid MCOs
  - 62% of their measures were shared
  - Only 3 measures out of 42 measures were not HEDIS measures

- California also showed more alignment than usual
  - This may be due to state efforts or to the fact that three of the seven CA measure sets were created by the same entity.

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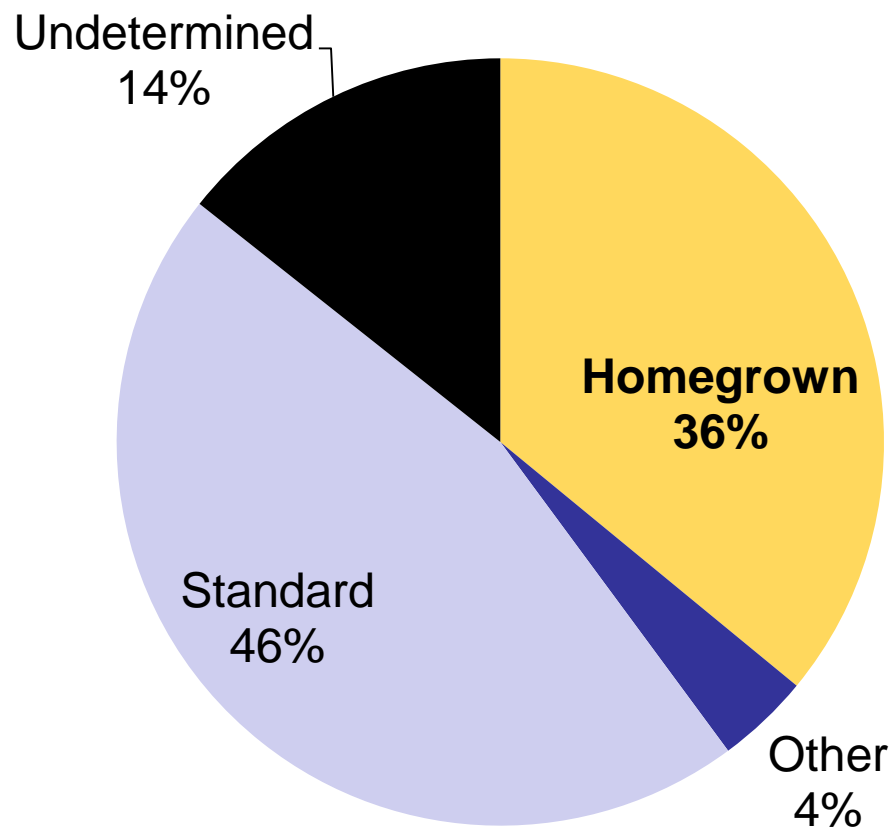# Programs are selecting different subsets of standard measures

- While the programs may be primarily using standard, NQF-endorsed measures, they are **not selecting the same** standard measures

- Not one measure was used by every program
  - Breast Cancer Screening was the most frequently used measure and it was used by only 30 of the programs (63%)

Finding #5: Even shared measures aren't always the same - the problem of modification!

- Most state programs modify measures
- 23% of the identifiable standardized measures were modified (237/1051)
- 40 of the 48 measure sets modified at least one measure
- Two programs modified *every* single measure
  1. RI PCMH
  2. UT Department of Health
- Six programs modified at least 50% of their measures
  1. CA Medi-Cal Managed Care Specialty Plans (67%)
  2. WA PCMH (67%)
  3. MA PCMH (56%)
  4. PA Chronic Care Initiative (56%)
  5. OR Coordinated Care Organizations (53%)
  6. WI Regional Collaborative (51%)

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Finding #6: Many programs create homegrown measures

Undetermined 14%

Homegrown 36%

Standard 46%

Other 4%
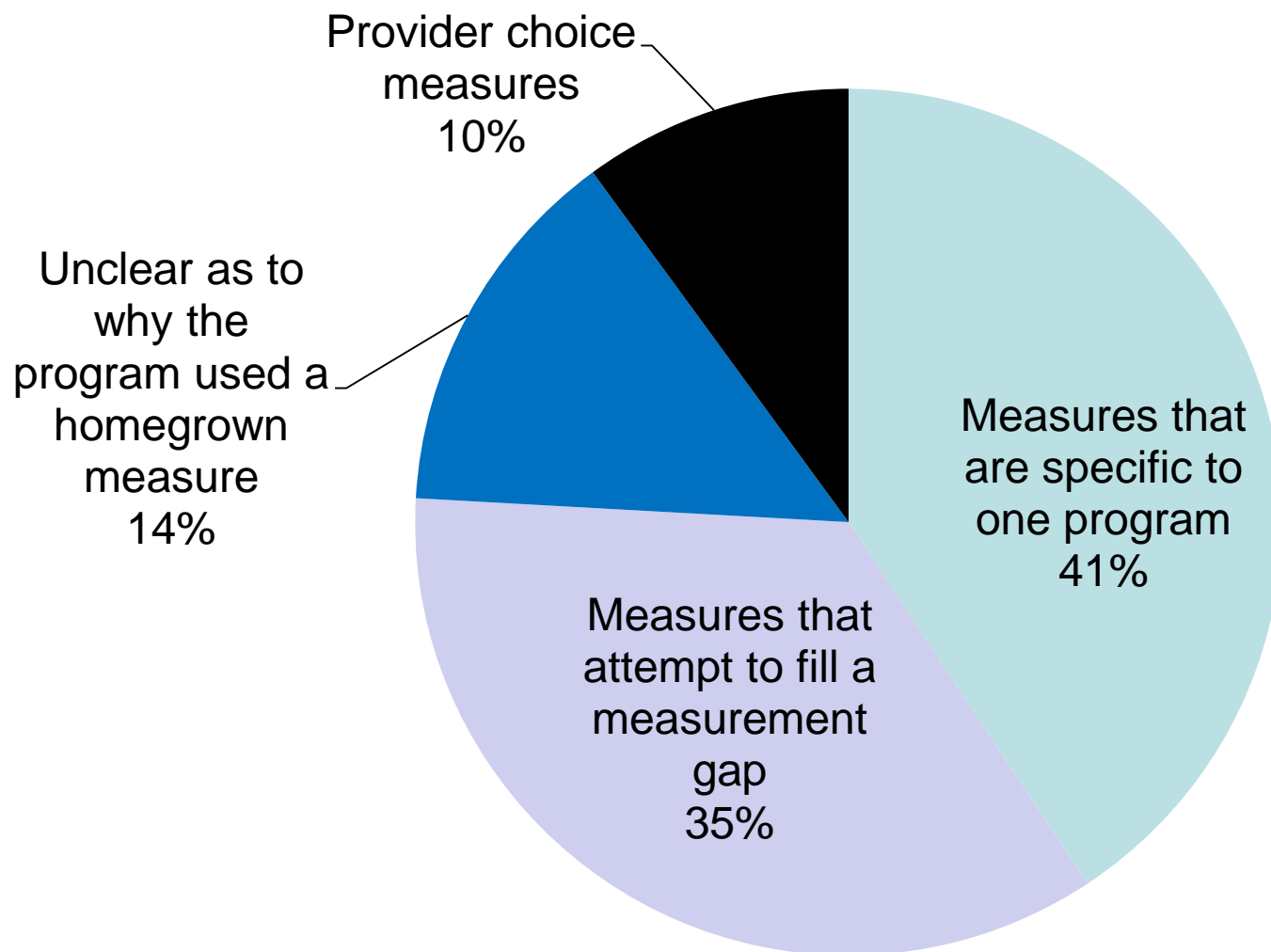
Distinct measures by type
n =509

What are "homegrown" measures?

Homegrown measures are measures that were indicated on the source document as having been created by the developer of the measure set.

If a measure was not clearly attributed to the developer, the source was considered to be "undetermined" rather than "homegrown."

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Why do Programs Create Homegrown Measures?

Provider choice measures 10%

Unclear as to why the program used a homegrown measure 14%

Measures that are specific to one program 41%

Measures that attempt to fill a measurement gap 35%

Homegrown measures by type
n = 198

Most Frequently Used Measures

- Bailit identified those measures that appeared in nine or more of the 48 measure sets collected as "Frequently Used" measures.

- The measures are organized by the Acute, Chronic Illness and Prevention domains.

Most Frequently Used Measures for Acute Care

# programs using the measure	Measure Name	Steward	NQF #
19	Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness (30-day only)	NCQA (HEDIS)	576
12	Appropriate Testing for Children With Pharyngitis	NCQA (HEDIS)	2
11	Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment in Adults with Acute Bronchitis	NCQA (HEDIS)	58
10	Appropriate Treatment for Children with Upper Respiratory Infections	NCQA (HEDIS)	69
9	Ambulatory Care (outpatient and ED utilization)	NCQA (HEDIS)	NA
9	Plan All-Cause Readmission	NCQA (HEDIS)	1768

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Most Frequently Used Measures for Chronic Illness Care

# programs using the measure	Measure Name	Steward	NQF #
29	Controlling High Blood Pressure	NCQA (HEDIS)	18
23	CDC: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Control (<8.0%)	NCQA (HEDIS)	575
23	CDC: LDL-C Control <100 mg/dL	NCQA (HEDIS)	64
21	Use of Appropriate Medications for Asthma	NCQA (HEDIS)	36
20	CDC: Medical Attention for Nephropathy	NCQA (HEDIS)	62
20	CDC: Blood Pressure Control (<140/90 mm Hg)	NCQA (HEDIS)	61
19	CDC: Hemoglobin-A1c Testing	NCQA (HEDIS)	57
18	CDC: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Poor Control (>9.0%)	NCQA (HEDIS)	59
17	CDC: LDL-C Screening	NCQA (HEDIS)	63
17	Cholesterol Management for Patients with Cardiovascular Conditions (LDL-C Screening & LDL-C Control (< 100 mg/dL))	NCQA (HEDIS)	NA

Most Frequently Used Measures for Chronic Illness Care (continued)

# programs using the measure	Measure Name	Steward	NQF #
16	CDC: Eye Exam	NCQA (HEDIS)	55
13	Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication	NCQA (HEDIS)	108
13	Antidepressant Medication Management	NCQA (HEDIS)	105
11	Annual Monitoring for Patients on Persistent Medications	NCQA (HEDIS)	21 (no longer endorsed)

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Most Frequently Used Measures for Chronic Illness Care (continued)

# programs using the measure	Measure Name	Steward	NQF #
30	Breast Cancer Screening (ages 40-69)*	NCQA (HEDIS)	31 (no longer endorsed)
24	Cervical Cancer Screening	NCQA (HEDIS)	32
21	Childhood Immunization Status	NCQA (HEDIS)	38
19	Colorectal Cancer Screening	NCQA (HEDIS)	34
17	Preventive Care & Screening: Tobacco Use: Screening & Cessation Intervention	AMA-PCPI	28
17	Weight Assessment & Counseling for Nutrition & Physical Activity for Children & Adolescents	NCQA (HEDIS)	24
15	Chlamydia Screening	NCQA (HEDIS)	33
15	Maternity Care: Postpartum Care (PPC), Prenatal Visit During 1st Trimester (PPC)	NCQA (HEDIS)	1517

*The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommended that routine breast cancer screening should begin at 50 rather than 40.

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Most Frequently Used Measures for Chronic Illness Care (continued)

# programs using the measure	Measure Name	Steward	NQF #
14	Adolescent Well-Care Visits	NCQA (HEDIS)	NA
14	Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Dependence Treatment: Composite	NCQA (HEDIS)	4
14	Preventive Care and Screening: Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening and Follow-Up	CMS	421